

February 17, 2011

VIA U.S. MAIL & EMAIL (dawnr@gao.gov)

Gene L. Dodaro
Comptroller General of the United States
Government Accountability Office
441 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20548

Dear General Dodaro,

In August 2008, GAO issued a report to the Federal Financial Management Subcommittee entitled “GRANTS MANAGEMENT: Attention Needed to Address Undisbursed Balances in Expired Grant Accounts.” According to its findings, up to \$1 billion in federal grants remain unspent from year to year and that number has grown dramatically in recent years. GAO found “the quarterly amount of undisbursed funding reported as remaining in expired grant accounts increased from about \$600 million in 2003 to about \$1 billion during 2006.”

GAO recommended the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) “instruct all executive departments and independent agencies to track undisbursed balances in expired grant accounts and report on the resolution of this funding in their annual performance plan and Performance and Accountability Reports.” According to the GAO report, “OMB said it supported the intent of our recommendations but did not specify whether it would implement them.”

We are writing to request an updated analysis to determine:

- 1) The actions, if any, OMB and federal department and agencies have taken to track undisbursed grant funds;
- 2) The current amount of undisbursed funding remaining in all expired grant accounts;
- 3) The amount of these undisbursed funds that has remained unspent for at least five years and the amount that has remained for ten years or more.

If you have any questions regarding this request, please do not hesitate to contact us or Keith Ashdown of Dr. Coburn’s staff at 202-224-5543 or John Kilvington of Senator Carper’s staff at 202-224-7155.

Thank you for your continued work on behalf of Congress and the American taxpayers.

Sincerely,

Tom Coburn, M.D.

Sen. Thomas Carper